

Too much of everything

Miners dominate Lehi's running game, and Lail leads offense to easy victory

By Bruce Smith
Matchup

The Bingham Miners came into Lehi heavily favored, and expected a surprise from the home team. The Miners, however, had a surprise of their own.

Senior quarterback Brady Lail passed for four touchdowns and the Miners' defense held Lehi's powerful running game to less than two yards per carry Friday night. Combined, Bingham rolled to a 49-0 victory in a Region 4 game.

The fun started when Bingham opened the game by recovering an on-side kick. The offense struggled at first, but Lail ended up finding Hayden Weichers twice for scores, and also connected with Kalan Cantwell and Dylan Briggs.

The score was 21-0 at halftime and Bingham put it away with three touchdowns in the third quarter, including a 20-yard interception return by Koa Wilson.

Lehi managed just 73 yards rushing and 95 yards of total offense. It marked the only time all year the Pioneers were shutout. The following week, Lehi played eventual 5A champion Lone Peak and ran for 214 yards and even had the lead for a while.

That wasn't the case here.

Drake Miller and Will Nasilai led the team in tackles, and Bingham dominated up front. The Pioneers' offense made it across midfield just twice – once in each half. Both drives ended on failed fourth-down conversions.

Wilson said he felt Bingham's defense was a little sloppy in the first half, but adjustments were



TOP: Will Nasilai gets past a Lehi blocker and prepares to make one of his nine tackles on the night.

BOTTOM: Noa Taeatafa sprints downfield looking for someone to block.

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Bingham highlights

- * - **THE MINERS' DEFENSE** handed Lehi its only shutout of the season.
- * - **QB BRADY LAIL** just missed a school record with four touchdown passes.



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quickly made at halftime.

"We just needed to have a better team game," Wilson told the *Deseret News*.

Nasilai recovered a fumble that set up one score in the third quarter and then Wilson picked off one of his four interceptions during the season and returned it to the end zone.

Lehi basically fell apart after that.

The Pioneers were frustrated. Their once-vaunted rushing game netted 73 yards on 38 carries and they never were able to consistently throw the ball.

First-year coach Marini Selu filled the game with reserves once it became apparent the Pioneers didn't have a chance. He was heard yelling to his players from the sideline: "Just have fun."

"There are a lot of teams out there who wish they could play (one of) the best in the state," said Selu. "Unfortunately, it was our turn tonight, and we came and tried to fight as best we can against a well-established and well-coached program."

Lail was particularly happy with his performance. He threw for just 149 yards, but he made most of his completions count.

"We came off of that loss to Lone Peak, and all we have to do is have confidence and get ready for everything that is here to come."

TOP LEFT: Durrant Miles reaches for the Lehi ball carrier.

TOP RIGHT: Amonai Itaaehau celebrates a big play on defense.

LOWER MIDDLE: Dylan Briggs and Kalan Cantwell celebrate Briggs' touchdown catch.

GAME SUMMARY

Bingham	7	14	21	7	-	49
Lehi	0	0	0	0	-	0

- B – Hayden Weichers 27 pass from Brady Lail (Tanner Maxfield kick)
- B – Weichers 12 pass from Lail (Maxfield kick)
- B – Kalan Cantwell 3 pass from Lail (Maxfield kick)
- B – Dylan Briggs 9 pass from Lail (Maxfield kick)
- B – Koa Wilson 20 interception return (Maxfield kick)
- B – Tanner Scholes 1 run (Maxfield kick)
- B – Scott Nichols 18 run (Maxfield kick)

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING: Bingham – Tonga Manu 11-78, Tisi Tuifua 3-32, Nichols 4-26, Brody Strong 2-16, Scholes 2-3, Lail 3-0. Lehi – Jake Benson 12-35, Zane Munger 19-31, Ryan Absher 6-4, Josh Farley 1-3.

PASSING: Bingham – Lail 12-17-1-149 yards. Lehi – Spencer Gray 4-7-1-22 yards.

RECEIVING: Bingham – Weichers 3-80, Cantwell 2-35, Jae Lobdell 3-26, Briggs 2-18, Tuifua 1-(-5), Scholes 1-(-5).